

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For eWASTE MANAGEMENT IN VIRGINIA

4/28/04

The following **Guiding Principles** were compiled from the experiences of solid waste managers and eWaste recyclers in Virginia who participated in the April 27, 2004 meeting of DEQ's Electronic Waste Management Advisory Committee.

THE PRINCIPLES

1. Local government and private solid waste managers should be encouraged to begin, continue or/and expand eWaste collection and management services by incorporating the following concepts:
 - experiences of existing efforts are positive
 - current services are generally self supporting, based on fees paid by users for CRTs (TVs and monitors) while most other items can be accepted at no cost
 - residents and businesses should be educated on the purpose of eWaste management, on the opportunities for reuse and recycling of the material, and the environmental concerns of disposal
 - eWaste management services should be open to residents and businesses, as long as large volumes (normally more than 5 units) are disclosed in advance (vendors can handle these directly)
 - resident education on the collection event is crucial, especially so participants will know about any fee in advance
 - information on existing manufacturer mail-in or take-back services should be provided for those not able to access collection events or services
 - data compatible with the national Post-Consumer Electronics Recycling Data Elements and Definitions, April 13, 2004, should be collected
 - permanent, on-going collection services are generally less expensive per unit and offer a more reliable service to residents
2. Several active eWaste recyclers in Virginia and neighboring states currently service collection events and customers directly. Some offer a Certificate of Process that certifies that the material is properly managed. Sponsors should ensure that such recyclers are fully permitted by the respective regulatory bodies.

3. eWaste efforts should incorporate state, regional and national rules and guidelines. Several examples are:
 - EPA's Plug-In to e-Cycling Guidelines for Materials Management (May, 2004)
 - EPA's Universal Waste Rule
 - EPA's Proposed Hazardous Waste Rule for CRTs (40 CFR 260 et al.) (June 12, 2002)
4. Program managers should utilize existing information sources, especially on the Internet and from existing programs, to bolster new programs. This would include DEQ's website, DEQ eWaste Working Papers and numerous governmental, non-profits, trade associations and related sources, and printed and promotional pieces.
5. DEQ shall monitor the actions and programs of other states and at the national level, especially the progress of NEPSI (the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative), which proposes a national system to handle eWaste. At the current time, no new state legislation appears to be needed in Virginia to foster the recycling of eWaste.
6. There should be a national system to track eWaste material to its ultimate use or disposal. Exporting such materials, which has created problems in the past, may be a viable option as long as safe reuse or recycling is assured.